

Message Text

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67

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 INR-10 MED-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SCA-01 SCI-06 USIA-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 HEW-08 DRC-01 /142 W
----- 040405

P R 051120Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 214

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, CE

SUBJ: GSL REQUEST FOR CHOLERA VACCINE

REF STATE 216935 COLOMBO 2751

1. POLICY OF GIVING WHO CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE IN DISTRIBUTION SCARCE CHOLERA VACCINE IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND RATIONAL IN ABSTRACT TERMS.

2. IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA, HOWEVER, IT HAS PUT US AT DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE FROM POLITICAL-HUMANITARIAN STANDPOINT, BECAUSE OTHER MAJOR DONORS DO NOT FEEL CONSTRAINED TO ADHERE TO SIMILAR PROCEDURE.

3. TO GSL REQUEST OF 1 NOV, UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND WHO RESPONDED PROMPTLY AND POSITIVELY WITH OFFERS OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE. BRITISH FIRM WORKED ENTIRE WEE-END, FOR EXAMPLE, SO THAT HALF MILLION DOSES COULD ARRIVE HERE TODAY.

4. IN SHARP CONTRAST, UNITED STATES RESPONDED SLOWLY -- AND NEGATIVELY SO FAR AS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IS CONCERNED. IT
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TOOK US IN FACT 24 HOURS LONGER TO GIVE NEGATIVE REPLY THAN

OTHER DONORS REQUIRED TO SAY YES.

5. GSL OFFICIALS HAVE POINTEDLY AND DISAPPOINTEDLY NOTED DIFFERENCE.

6. WE ALSO ARE HIGHLY PUZZLED, TO SAY THE LEAST, AT SMALL QUANTITY CHOLERA VACCINE READILY AVAILABLE IN UNITED STATES (100,000 DOSES), PARTICULARLY WHEN AUSTRALIA WAS ABLE TO GET ALMOST SAME AMOUNT TO COLOMBO WITHIN 48 HOURS OF GSL REQUEST AND BRITISH ABLE DELIVER 525,000 DOSES WITHIN FOUR DAYS. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSING U.S. STOCK SITUATION WITH ALL CONCERNED.

7. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEPT PROMPTLY REVIEW WHAT APPEARS TO US AS EXCESSIVELY RIGID POLICY SO THAT FLEXIBLE RESPONSE MAY BE MADE WHEN NEEDED TO MEET BOTH USC'S POLITICAL-HUMAN-ITARIAN INTERESTS AND LOCAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 NOV 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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